

Message Text

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10

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 FEA-01 ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FPC-01 H-02 INR-07

INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-03 USIA-06

SAM-01 OES-03 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 FRB-03 PA-01

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FM AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1265

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L MUSCAT 747

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, MU, US

SUBJECT: AMERICAN PETROLEUM CONCESSIONS IN OMAN: MIXED RESULTS

1. IN RECENT DISCUSSIONS WITH VMAN CENTRAL BANK VICE PRESIDENT YOUSUF NIMATALLAH AND MANAGING DIRECTOR OF PETROLEUM DEVELOPMENT (OMAN) LTD. RUDI JACKLI, WE LEARNED THAT THE FIRST OFF-SHORE DRILLINGS IN THE SUN OIL CONCESSION AREA SOUTH OF MASIRAH ISLAND HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFUL. SUN OIL HAS HAD POSITIVE INDICATIONS OF OIL IN ITS INITIAL EXPLORATION IN MASIRAH BAY, AND CHANCES ARE GOOD FOR COMMERCIAL OIL PRODUCTION IN THE FUTURE. NIMATALLAH BELIEVED THAT THE SUN OIL FIELDS WILL YIELD UP TO 30,000 B/D BY THE END OF 1976. JACKLI WAS MORE GUARDED BUT ALSO FELT THAT SUN OIL'S PROSPECTS WERE "VERY NTERESTING".

2. INTERNAL OMANI POLITICS SEEMS TO HAVE INTERFERED WITH
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AMOCO'S EXPLORATION OF THE POTENTIALLY GOOD SUNAINA CON-

CESSION AREA, WHICH IS LOCATED IMMEDIATELY NORTH OF PD(O)'S
PRODUCING FIELDS IN NORTHERN OMAN. NIMATALLAH INFORMED US THAT
AMOCO HAS BACKED AWAY FROM SIGNING AN AGREEMENT FOR EXPLORING
THE SUNAINA AREA THIS MONTH AS HAD BEEN PREVIOUSLY ANTICIPATED.
AMOCO HAS NOT CANCELLED ITS RIGHTS TO THE AREA, HOWEVER.
NIMATALLAH BLAMED AMOCO'S INDECISION ON RUMOR-MONGERING BY
THOMAS HILL, WHOSE AUTHORITY SEEMS TO HAVE WANED RECENTLY.
NIMATALLAH BELIEVES THAT HILL WARNED AMOCO AGAINST INVESTING
HERE ON THE GROUNDS THAT THE FINANCIAL POSITION OF THE OMAN
GOVT IS QUITE SHAKY (AN ALLEGATION WHICH NIMATALLAH DENIES).
ZWEIFEL

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